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October 3, 2014

Mr. Zaffar Eusuff, Program Manager
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

**Subject: Comments on Draft 2014 Drought Grant Solicitation Funding
Recommendations for the Coachella Valley IRWM Region**

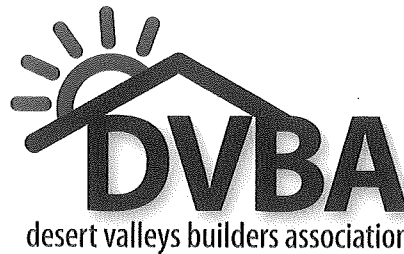
Dear Mr. Eusuff,

The Desert Valleys Builders Association (DVBA) represents all levels of the construction and building industries in the Coachella, Imperial and Palo Verde Valleys of Southern California. We are committed to ensuring that building of all types of construction remains vibrant and strong in this southeastern desert region. To be an effective steward to our cause we are also avid proponents to resource management, recycling, conservation and sustainability.

This region has set conservation standards for habitat and resource conservation for more than a decade that are more restrictive than most California regions, let alone the rest of the nation. However, state and federal regulations continue to take resources from this region or manage them in response to another regions mismanagement.

As a supporter and public participant of the Coachella Regional Water Management Group (CVRWMG) we are frustrated with the recent scores awarded to the *Coachella Valley IRWM 2014 IRWM Drought Solicitation Implementation Grant Proposal*.

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The rationale for scoring in the most recent iteration appears to be far removed from those requirements as stated. If the IRWM has additional information for our region beyond that from which the CVRWMG application demonstrates, those requirements should be shared. This demonstration should also follow for the regions that have been awarded these grants that appear to have demonstrated lesser impacts per application.

The CVRWMG has demonstrated forethought and planning to provide substantial results, and improvements for the funding requested. We would additionally ask for the IRWM to evaluate the cost benefit ratios for the individual programs proposed, not just by our local *Group*, but by all applicants as a process of re-evaluation of the most recent round of awards recommendations.

Respectfully,


Gretchen Gutierrez
Chief Executive Officer